

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05502 01 OF 02 141257Z

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4571

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5502

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: WFC, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 59TH ECOSOC-WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

FOR AMBASSADOR BUFFUM

REF: STATE 162416

1. THE DEPARTMENT 162416 REACHED USDEL ON JULY 10. THIS WAS CONSIDERABLE AFTER THE DATE (JUNE 28) WHEN HERALD TRIBUNE PUBLISHED A STORY OF G-77 ATTACK ON THE PROCEEDINGS AND SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. THIS FORCED USDEL TO WADE INTO ROME TROUBLED WATERS WHICH THREATENED TO SPILL OVER INTO OTHERWISE CALM ATMOSPHERE AT GENEVA.

2. FIRSTLY, WE (FERGUSON AND KITCHEN) HELD EXTENSIVE AND INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS INCLUDING FAO DG BOERMA, WFP SECRETARY GENERAL AQUINO, USYG MORSE, FAO RESP WALTON, WEITZ AND SHAW, SYG'S SENIOR STAFF ASSISTANT AHMED, AND UNDP EXECUTIVES PETERSON AND PATEL. NEXT WE MADE DISCREET INQUIRIES OF THE NAM AND G-77 (ALGERIA, YUGOSLAVIA, PAKISTAN, INDIA, PERU, KENYA, BRAZIL, THE PHILIPPINES, AND INDONESIA). FINALLY, WE HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH A NUMBER OF WEO'S, PARTICULARLY ITALY AS PRESIDENT OF THE NINE, DENMARK, UK, FRANCE, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND. FROM THE FOREGOING CONTACTS WE DRAW THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

(1) FIRST, AT THE OPENING OF THE COUNCIL THE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05502 01 OF 02 141257Z

FOLLOWING SAT ON THE DIAS: SAYED MAREI (EGYPT, AS

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL), MR. AZIZ (PAKISTAN, AS ONE OF THE TWO WFC SECRETARIAT DEPUTIES). IN ADDITION THERE WERE JOHN HANNAH AND HIS AMERICAN DEPUTY NATHAN KOFFSKEY. ALSO SEATED ON THE DIAS WAS HARRY WALTER, KOFFSKEY'S REPLACEMENT AS AN ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EDWARD MARTIN OF THE CGFPI, BOERMA (THE NETHERLANDS EGFAO), AND IN BOERMA'S ABSENCE, ROY JACKSON HIS ALTERNATE, AND RUDOLPH PETERSON (UNDP). THIS PROTOCOL CONFIGURATION ENABLED A NUMBER OF PARTISAN DISSIDENTS WHO LOST IN THE PERSONNEL BATTLE FOR POSTS FOR THE THIRD WORLD IN DECEMBER TO ARGUE VOCIFEROUSLY THAT THE WFC HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY CAPTURED BY THE U.S. AND SO WEIGHTED WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS UNDER USG INSTRUCTIONS THAT G-77 COULD NOT BE EQUITABLY REPRESENTED.

(2) SECOND, AZIZ HAD SUCCEEDED IN PRECIPITATING A BUREAUCRATIC HASSLE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN DEPUTY TO HANNAH AND HIMSELF. THE IMMEDIATE RESULT OF THIS STAND-OFF WAS THAT PAPERS WERE NOT CLEARED BETWEEN THE FAO STAFF AND THE SFC STAFF. IN OTHER INSTANCES THIS BUREAUCRATIC FUROR, BELOW THE LEVEL OF JOHN HANNAH, RESULTED IN PASSIVE COOPERATION FROM THE FAO SECRETARIAT ON MATTERS IMPORTANT TO A MAJOR CONFERENCE SUCH AS CONFERENCE SERVICES, AVAILABILITY OF TRANSLATORS, INTERNAL CLEARANCES OF PAPERS, LIAISON BETWEEN THE BUREAU, THE SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATIONS, AND CONFERENCE-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS. OUR SOURCE IS BOERMA HIMSELF WHO ALLEGED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE EXTENT OF FUROR BEING PRECIPITATED BY THE RESPECTIVE SECRETARIATS WITHIN G-77. THE GROUP OF 77 PRESENTED A DECLARATION AT THE 19 MEETING ON JUNE 27 AT A LATE HOUR. THIS DOCUMENT, IMPLIED BUT DID NOT EXPLICITLY EXPRESS DIS-SATISFACTION WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WFC.

(3) IT WAS THE ATTEMPT OF BANGLADESH, CUBA, MEXICO, AND SENEGAL TO CALL A CAUCUS INTENDED TO RE-KINDLE FIRES THAT HAD BEEN BANKED AT THE WFC WHICH PRECIPITATED THE DECLARATION OF ROME. THE DECLARATION: CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 05502 01 OF 02 141257Z

(A) DECLARES IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THE BUREAU AS ELECTED IN THE COURSE OF THE FIRST SESSION;

(B) ASKS SYG NOMINATE AN ADEQUATE REPEAT ADEQUATE SECRETARIAT WITH A BALANCED REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION, ANSWERABLE TO THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL;

(C) MAINTAINS THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS
OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE;

(D) TO CHARGE THE PRESIDENT, IN WHOM THE
GROUP REAFFIRM ITS CONFIDENCE, TO CONVENE A NEW
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD.

FYI: IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS DECLARA-
TION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR INCLUSION IN
THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION BUT NO FURTHER ACTION
ON IT WAS TAKEN. END FYI.

(4) AFTER DRAWING THESE CONCLUSIONS FROM THE EX-
TENSIVE CONSULTATIONS PREVIOUSLY CITED, THE USDEL
ECOSOC IMMEDIATELY WENT ON THE OFFENSIVE, EXPRESSING
ITS CONCERN THAT SUCH PARTISAN AND UNFOUNDED ATTACKS
AND TOLERANCE OF BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHTING SHOULD
TARNISH IN ANY WAY THE CONCEPT AND PERSONNEL OF WFC.
WE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE AND UTILITY OF AN INTER-
NATIONALLY ACCEPTED PERSONALITY SUCH AS JOHN HANNAH
AND CITED HIS EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS IN RESPECT OF FOOD
AID TARGETS, THE LAUNCHING OF IFAP, HIS PERMANENT ROLE
IN SYNTHESIZING THE WORK OF IBRP, UNDP, FAO GOVERNING
COUNCIL, AND THE CGFPI. WE BELIEVE THIS EFFORT HAS
SUBSTANTIALLY ABATED THE PRESENT FUROR. WE ARE NOT
CLEAR AS TO THE EXTENT A RECKLESS-ILL-CONCEIVED,
AND SHORTSIGHTED EFFORT ON THE PART OF DISSIDENT AND
RELATIVELY JUNIOR AGRICULTURAL PARTISANS AT ROME HAS
BEEN TRANSLATED INTO CONCRETE PROTESTS TO THE SECRE-
TARY GENERAL AT NEW YORK. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY
SYG ASSISTANTS PROHASKA AND AHMED THAT THE SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05502 02 OF 02 141346Z

46

ACTION NODS-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4572

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 5502

NODIS

GENERAL EXPECTS HANNAH TO COMPLETE HIS TERM. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WFC WILL BE INCREASED AND CERTAIN PERSONNEL WILL BE SHIFTED IN AN EFFORT TO LEND GREATER SUPPORT AND LIAISON TO DR. HANNAH AND, IN DUE COURSE HIS SUCCESSOR. USDEL BELIEVES THIS IS A SINE QUA NON, PARTICULARLY IF THE NEXT HEAD OF THE WFC SECRETARIAT IS A PERSON WITHOUT LONG AND HIGH QUALITY CAPABILITIES IN DEALING WITH ISSUES OF INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND UNITED NATIONS PROCEDURE.

3. AT THE MOMENT OUR IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT MANY DELEGATIONS LOOK TO USE TO SUGGEST HOW ECOSOC SHOULD DEAL WITH THE REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (E/5708) WHICH ON BALANCE REFLECTS NONE OF THE DISRUPTIVE IN-GREDIENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN, AND WHICH APPEAR OVERSTATED BY THE PRESS, THE 10TH SESSION. ON NET ACCOUNT, WHILE RELATIVELY FEW MOMENTOUS DECISIONS COULD OR, FOR THAT MATTER, SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN, THE FIRST NINE SESSIONS SEEM TO MOST PRINCIPALS TO HAVE GONE REASONABLY WELL. BASES ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AS KNOWN TO US HERE, WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) THAT USDEL CONTINUE ITS INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO MOVE THE REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL THROUGH THE ECOSOC UTILIZING EITHER A DECISION OR RESOLUTION WHICH IN NO WAY DENIGRATES THE BUREAU OR THE SECRETARIAT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05502 02 OF 02 141346Z

(2) THAT THE USG LEND ITS SUPPORT TO CONVENING THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WFC NOT EARLIER THAN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1976, PREFERABLE AT NEW YORK WHERE THE AGRICULTURAL PARTISANS OF FAO WOULD NOT REIGN SUPREME.

(3) THAT WE SUPPORT THE SYG AND THE FAO DG'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WFC BY THE ADDITION OF TWO OR THREE HIGH QUALITY THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATIVES. THIS WOULD DEFUSE THE ISSUE OF "SECRETARIAT INBALANCE".

(4) THAT THE STRONGEST FEASIBLE REPRESENTATIONS BE MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN DAKAR, MEXICO CITY, AND DACCABE PROTESTING THE DISRUPTIVE, PREJUDICIAL, AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS OF THEIR REPS AT THE WFC. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED UPON THE PREEMINENT CAPABILITIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTERNATIONALISTS

SUCH AS MARTIN, HANNAH, ET. AL. IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO RECOMMEND WHAT ACTIONS, IF ANY, SHOULD APPLY TO CUBA.

(5) HANNAH HAS MOVED TO MAKE AZIZ THE SINGLE DEPUTY AND KOFFSKEY'S SUCCESSOR (WALTERS) A SUB-ORDINATE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. THIS SHOULD ALLEVIATE, IN PART, THE LDC/WEO CONCERN OVER WFC EXECUTIVE STAFFING. WE FEEL USG SHOULD SUPPORT VIGOROUSLY. THERE WOULD STILL BE A NEED FOR A PERSON AT THE WORKING LEVEL THOROUGHLY CAPABLE OF INSIDE LIAISON AND IN-FIGHTING FOR PROTECTION OF DR. HANNAH'S POSITION.

(6) US REPRESENTATION TO FAO SHOULD BE UPGRADED AND, ABOVE ALL, INCLUDE PERSONNEL KNOWN TO AND RESPECTED BY DR. HANNAH AND WHO COULD ALSO PROVIDE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE IN THE POLITICAL AND PROCEDURAL HASSLES WHICH ALL TOO OFTEN ARE UNAVOIDABLE IN THE UN OF TODAY.

7. ITEM 17 (FOOD PROBLEMS) NOW SEATED TO BE TAKEN UP IN CONJUNCTION ITEM 15 (OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES) THE WEEK OF JULY 14-18. THE LINKAGE WAS PROPOSED BY ALGERIA WHO DECLARED THAT FOOD IS ONE OF THREE ITEMS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 05502 02 OF 02 141346Z

(THE OTHER TWO BEING INDUSTRIALIZATION AND TRADE) TO BE ACCORDED HIGHEST PRIORITY AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION.

8. THE DEBATE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY UNCOVER ANY RESIDUAL RANCOR AND PROPOSALS TO FURTHER ESCALATE DEVVELOPMENTS AT THE WFC. FERGUSON AND KITCHEN SLATED TO HANDLE ITEM PERSONALLY.

9. APPRECIATE FURTHER GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE DECISION OR RESOLUTION.

10. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT A ROUTINE DECISION TAKING NOT OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AND PASSING REPORT OF COUNCIL TO GA WOULD SUFFICE. ABRAMS

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